

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1-19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently Amended) A method of forming a thin light polarization film comprising the steps of:

- (a) depositing a layer of photoalignable material photochemically stable azodye in an isotropic phase on a substrate,
- (b) illuminating the photoalignable azodye layer with actinic radiation to define a principal absorption axis of said photoalignable azodye layer,
- (c) applying a thin layer of an isotropic absorber solution onto said photoalignable azodye layer to thereby produce a lyotropic liquid crystal,
- (d) partially evaporating said solution to form a gel, and
- (e) baking said gel to form an anisotropic absorber layer.

21. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 20 wherein said actinic radiation is linearly polarized and the principal absorption axis of said photoalignable azodye layer is orthogonal to the polarization vector of said actinic radiation.

22. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 20 wherein said actinic radiation is non-polarized and is incident on said photoalignable azodye layer at an oblique angle.

23. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 20 wherein the photoalignable azodye layer is illuminated through a mask whereby only selected regions of said layer are aligned.

24. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 23 wherein the photoalignable azodye layer is illuminated through several masks in sequence whereby different regions of said photoalignable azodye layer may be formed with different alignment axes.

25. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 20 wherein said photoalignable azodye layer is formed with a plurality of pixels.

26. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 25 wherein said pixels include at least two different alignment axes.

27. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 25 wherein all said pixels are formed with the same alignment axis.

28. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 20 wherein said photoalignable azodye layer is illuminated through a photo-patterned mask that transforms linearly polarized or non-polarized actinic radiation into actinic radiation having a spatial distribution of polarization vectors.

29. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 28 wherein said photo-patterned mask is a light polarization mask.

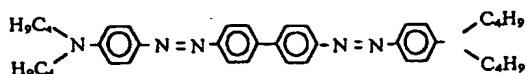
30. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 29 wherein said photo-patterned mask is a birefringence mask.

31. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 20 wherein more than one absorber material is provided and different absorbers are chosen with different colors.

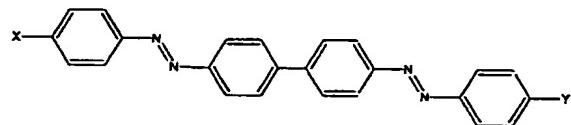
32. (Canceled)

33. (Canceled)

34. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim [[33]] 20 wherein the azodye has the structure:

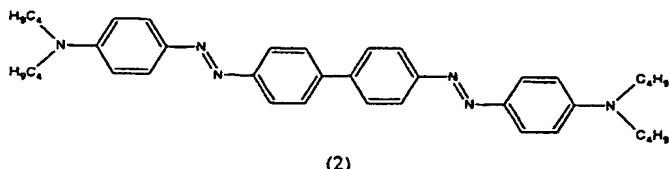


35. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim [[33]] 20 wherein the azodye is selected from the group of dyes having the structures:

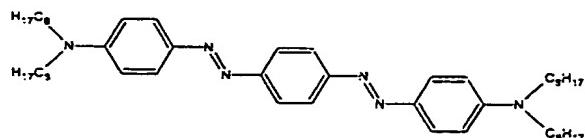


$X, Y=-\text{NR}, -\text{N}(\text{R})_2, -\text{R}$ ; where  $\text{R}=\text{Alkyl}(\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{12})$

(1)



(2)



(3)

36. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 20 wherein said photoalignable azodye material is deposited in a layer of from 0.05 to 1.5 $\mu\text{m}$  thick.

37. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 20 wherein said absorber material has a thickness of from 0.3 to 1.5  $\mu\text{m}$ .

38. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 20 wherein said thin light polarization film is formed on a substrate forming an inner surface of a liquid crystal cell.

39. (Withdrawn) A thin light polarization film deposited on a substrate and comprising a plurality of pixels, wherein said pixels are formed with different axes of polarization.

40. (Withdrawn) A liquid crystal cell comprising a liquid crystal material received within front and rear substrates, wherein an internal surface of one of said substrates is formed with deposited thereon a thin light polarization film as claimed in claim 37.